

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 OMB-01 SY-05 FBIE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 SS-15

NSC-05 /054 W

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R 180850Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4971

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 1435

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LI

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN STUDENT GRIEVANCES

REF: (A) STATE 58190; (B) MONROVIA A-104, NOVEMBER 21, 1974;
(C) MONROVIA A-07, FEBRUARY 20, 1975; (D) MONROVIA A-12,
FEBRUARY 27, 1975

1. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME GRUMBLING AMONG STUDENTS AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER INADEQUACY OF GOL SUPPORT, NO DEMOS HAVE OCCURRED HERE ON THAT BASIS. GOVERNMENT'S USUAL HEAVY-HANDEDNESS IN DEALING WITH ANY OPPOSITION HAS BEEN MAIN STUDENT GRIEVANCE. SEVERAL SPECIFIC INCIDENTS HAVE CAUSED SOME EXPRESSIONS OF STUDENT UNREST HERE. AMONG THESE ARE FIRING OF FAVORED PROFESSORS, REFUSAL TO PERMIT REENROLLMENT OF CERTAIN STUDENTS AFTER TROUBLE AT BOOKER WASHINGTON INSTITUTE, AND ALBERT PORTE CASE INVOLVING STUDENT PUBLICATION REVELATION AND ITS EDITORS. EMBASSY BELIEVES STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES IN US PROBABLY REFLECT EMPATHY WITH STUDENTS HERE ON THESE MATTERS.

2. ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE AT DISTANCE, EMBASSY DOES NOT CONSIDER SIGNIFICANT TRIBAL MAKE-UP OF GROUP THAT DEMONSTRATED AT LIBERIAN EMBASSY. KRU TRIBE IS HISTORICALLY MOST TROUBLESOME ONE TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND STUDENT POLITICS AT UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA HAVE IN PAST TAKEN TRIBAL, BUT NOT PARTICULARLY KRU, OVERTONES. IN THIS CASE EXPLANATION PROBABLY JUST THAT MEMBERS

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OF SAME TRIBE ASSOCIATE TOGETHER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MONROV01435
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750094-0021
From: MONROVIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750341/aaaabkjm.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 58190, 75 MONROVIA A-104, 75 NOVEMBER 21, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBERIAN STUDENT GRIEVANCES
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006